

ESF #9 - URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

Participating Departments/Agencies:

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
City of Lincoln Fire Department
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Nebraska Department of Roads
Nebraska Military Department
Nebraska State Fire Marshal
Nebraska State Patrol

I. PURPOSE

- A. To plan and coordinate the use of Federal Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) assets following an event requiring locating, extricating and providing for the immediate medical treatment of victims trapped in collapsed structures.
- B. To coordinate and assist State and local agencies with their US&R responsibilities.
- C. To identify the Lincoln Fire Department as a city asset as well as a Federal Urban Search and Rescue Team. Any request for the full US&R team would be made through the federal government.
- D. Upon activation by the Department of Homeland security, under the national Response Plan, US&R task forces are considered Federal assets under the Robert T. Stafford Act and other applicable authorities and therefore under Federal direction and control.

II. SITUATION

- A. A major emergency or disaster may cause conditions that place persons in life-threatening situations requiring prompt rescue and medical care. Rescue personnel can encounter extensive damage to structures, which require search and rescue expertise not readily available at the local level. All other forms of search and rescue--i.e. water, wilderness, etc., --are covered under other existing authorities and will not be managed by this ESF.
- B. Assumptions
 - 1. All available State and local search and rescue organizations will be committed immediately, and will be unable to respond to all requirements.
 - 2. Numbers of local residents and workers or convergent volunteers will initiate activities to help US&R operations and will require coordination and direction.

3. Access to damaged areas will be restricted.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. A NEMA staff member serves as the ESF Coordinator for ESF #9. In the event of a potential or real disaster event, the ESF #9 Coordinator (ESFC) from NEMA will be notified by the SEOC. Upon SEOC request, the ESFC will be available to respond to requests for emergency/disaster related information. When the SEOC is activated, the ESFC will activate ESF #9, identify which participating departments/agencies are needed, and take steps to insure that participating departments/agencies are activated or on alert as appropriate.
- B. ESF #9 will maintain a listing of all state assets available to support an urban search and rescues mission. Volunteer and local agencies may be requested to contribute assets to the response effort. Industrial resources may also be considered for availability and effectiveness. Furthermore, availability, operations conditions, the anticipated incident duration and the logistical requirements must be considered.
- C. ESF #9, with the Emergency Management Agency as the Primary agency, will:
 1. Respond to requests for local urban search and rescue assistance.
 2. Accumulate damage information obtained from assessment teams, the local emergency operations center and other local and state agencies.
 3. Develop an Incident Response Plan, which includes the logistical requirements necessary to obtain and transport critically needed equipment.
 4. Assess the need for, and obtain private industry support as required
 5. Pre-position resources when it becomes apparent that urban search and rescue equipment will be required;
 6. Coordinate the movement of any search and rescue resource that may be needed from the vendor/provider to the nearest staging area or incident site.
 7. Prepare and process reports using established procedures, focusing specific attention to the production of after-action reports.
 8. Re-deploy and re-stage resources as appropriate.
 9. Maintain tracking and accounting records for all deployed resources beyond what each agency provides from their inventories. Each cooperating agency maintains their separate personnel, equipment and expense accounting system.

IV. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ESF #9 will utilize personnel and resources from participating departments/agencies to respond to mission assignments related to emergencies/disasters. Additional resources available from other ESFs may be coordinated and mobilized to support ESF #9 missions. When requests exceed the state's capability to respond, additional resources (i.e. federal resources, contractual agreements, and mutual aid agreements) will be mobilized. All personnel and resources mobilized by ESF #9 will remain under the direction and control of the ESFC #9, unless otherwise designated.

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